

BALDOCK URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1970

ACKD. BY



Baldock Urban District Council,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
Baldock,  
Herts.

Telephone: Baldock 3221/4

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BALDOCK  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEMBERS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1970

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

O. Hoeg

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Councillor J. H. Barton

COUNCILLORS:

Dr. N. M. Burgess	R Crumpholt
W. J. Ellis	R. L. Thomas

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J.D. HALL, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.) D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

N.G. WILLIS, M.A.P.H.I.

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## P R E F A C E

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

Baldock.

To the Chairman and Members of Baldock Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1970.

The population of Baldock showed an overall decrease of 160 in 1970, two less births than in the previous year.

The infant mortality rate was considerably lower than last year and lower than the remainder of the county and the country as a whole, although the perinatal rate was somewhat higher. No maternal deaths occurred.

The number of deaths from all causes remained the same in 1970, the commonest cause of death still remaining disease of the heart and blood vessels. The rates are still somewhat higher than those for the remainder of the division and the county as a whole.

No outbreak of serious epidemic disease occurred during the year and the state of public health in Baldock continues to be satisfactory.

The provision of essential family planning services in the area provided on behalf of the local health authority by the Family Planning Association has been handicapped by the shortage of doctors able to carry out this work and also by the shortage of suitable premises.

Future family planning needs could not be foreseen when existing local health authority clinics were designed and these clinics are not always convenient for the staff - both medical and lay - of the Association. Family planning generally requires the use of several consulting rooms at the same time and health clinics because of their different functions were not designed in this way. Future planning, however, will recognise these needs and already new clinics in the area are being designed with family planning usage in mind. On the whole, however, the excellent co-operation which exists between local health authority family planning staffs have minimised these difficulties and an adequate service is now available throughout the area.

The continuing and accelerating rate of increase in sexually transmitted diseases in this area is a matter for concern. It is neither alarmist nor exaggerated to describe this group of diseases as the most serious epidemic situation in this country today. In this area alone these diseases have increased annually since 1968 by 13, 11 and 51 per cent.

The increase is largely in the 20 and under age group, and the number of cases in girls is ominous, since they provide the reservoir of infection. Unless the progressive enlightenment and liberation of the younger generation is not urgently retarded and commonsense be allowed equality of publicity,

the public health will be further endangered and the health of those who will one day be middle-aged is threatened.

It is not unreasonable to assert that certain forms of sex education which have been developed recently and applied without regard to the stage of physical and emotional development of the child and adolescent, may be dangerous.

It is my conviction that venereal disease must inevitably be made notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health in exactly the same way as other dangerous infectious diseases for many years. At the present time, a medical officer of health whilst statutorily responsible for the maintenance of a beneficial state of the public health in his area, is unable to exercise any control over the communication of these diseases since he is aware, neither of the identity nor the total numbers of the sufferers. Venereologists notify the medical officer of health for the area of the number of cases attending their particular clinic. Since, however, many patients travel outside their area for treatment, the true incidence cannot be known. It is argued that to make these diseases notifiable in law might deter those affected from seeking treatment because of an imagined loss of secrecy. It is my view that this argument can no longer be sustained. Venereal disease is subject to the same epidemiological laws as for example smallpox and typhoid and could be controlled, with energy, in the same way.

The present period and the next few years will be crucial in determining the quality of the health services in this country in future. The health services are at the present time divided into those provided by the local health authority (County Council) the local Sanitary Authority (the District Council) and the hospital and general practitioner services under the National Health Service Act. The local authority health services are maternity and child welfare clinics, the school health service, ambulances, mental health, care of the elderly, control of epidemic disease, purity of food and water supplies, and general environmental hygiene.

The establishment of local authority social services departments under non-medical control has removed from local authority doctors direct responsibility for mental health and the care of the elderly inter alia and it is probable that within the next few years direct medical control of local sanitary authority functions will be removed also.

Plans for the replacement of the present National Health Service and local health authority functions by a single area health authority for Hertfordshire are now advanced and the intention of such plans is to unify under one central organisation these services. The present medical staffs of County and District Councils will be transferred to the area health authority and will no longer be responsible to those authorities for the exercise of their present functions. This unification with the hospital and general practitioner services will not be achieved so long as those functions of the local health authority transferred to the new Social Services Department remain with the local authority. Additional and unnecessary complications will be added to what in any event will prove a difficult exercise.

The proposed division of responsibility for general environmental hygiene which includes the central of epidemic disease between the local authority without medical staff and the area health authority might well prove in the future the most serious single error, and it is not difficult to foresee some of the dangers.



It is to be hoped that sufficient time still remains for adequate discussions to take place before the proposed far reaching changes in the health services are implemented.

I would like to express my thanks to the public health, health and welfare staff in Baldock, including those concerned with the administration for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL

Medical Officer of Health.

Divisional Health Office,  
Bedford Road,  
Hitchin,  
Hertfordshire.

Telephone no. Hitchin 50411

SECTION "A"

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	.....	542
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid - 1970	.....	6,730
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1970	.....	2,011
Rateable value	.....	£354,143
Net product of ld. rate	.....	£1,399

BALDOCK VITAL STATISTICS 1970

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	46	44	90
Legitimate	40	43	83
Illegitimate	6	1	7
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1000 population	-	-	13.4
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1000 population	-	-	14.2
Illegitimate live births percentate of total live births	-	-	8.0
<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>			
Total	-	-	1
Rate per 1000 live and still-births	-	-	11.0
Total live and still-births	46	45	91
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	1	1
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	-	-	11.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	-	-	12.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	-	-	-
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	-	-	11.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	-	-	11.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still-births)	-	-	22.0
<u>MATERNITY MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</u>			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still-births	-	-	0.0
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>	32	31	63
Death rate (uncorrected)	-	-	9.4
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	13.0
Natural increase in population			27
Overall decrease in population			160

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1970

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	-	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	1	2
Anaemias	-	1	1
Other diseases of Nervous System	-	2	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	11	7	18
Other forms of Heart Disease	1	1	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	6	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	-	3
Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	1	1
All other Accidents	1	-	1
All other external causes	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>

<u>DEATH IN AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year .....	-	1	1
1 - 4 years .....	-	-	-
5 - 14 years .....	-	-	-
15 - 24 years .....	-	-	-
25 - 34 years .....	-	1	1
35 - 44 years .....	-	2	2
45 - 54 years .....	6	2	8
55 - 64 years .....	7	3	10
65 - 74 years .....	8	10	18
75 years and over .....	11	12	23
<b>All Causes</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1970 Baldock	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire	England and Wales
Population	6,730	161,560	912,000	48,987,700
Live Births (Crude)	13.4	17.1	15.6	16.0
Live Births (Corrected)	14.2	-	14.7	16.0
Death Rate - All causes Crude	9.4	8.5	9.6	11.7
Death Rate - All causes Corrected	13.0		13.0	11.7
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphillis and other V.D.	0.00	0.02	0.04	*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.00	0.00 )	0.02	*
Other Forms	0.00	0.00 )		*
All Forms	0.00	0.00 )		
Cancer				
Lung and Bronchus	0.29	0.47 )	2.02	*
Other	1.48	1.39 )		*
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	0.20	0.10	1.36	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.90	4.22	2.91	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.87	0.89	1.33	*
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.00	0.06	*
Infantile Mortality	11.0	20.2	14.9	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality	11.0	14.0	10.7	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality	11.0	11.5	9.3	11.0
Perinatal Mortality	22.0	21.4	20.0	23.0
Still-births	11.0	10.0	10.7	13.0

\*Figures not available



# DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1970

In any discussion on vital statistics it should be remembered that the population of each separate district of North Hertfordshire represents a relatively small basis for comparative purposes. Population of the North Hertfordshire Division, however, which exceeds 150,000 may be considered sufficiently large for valid statistical deductions to be made, and for this purpose the table giving the overall picture of the vital statistics also includes similar statistics for the Division as a whole for comparison with each individual district.

Briefly, from a divisional point of view all the rates may be considered satisfactory. The infant mortality rate slightly exceeds the remainder of Hertfordshire and England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate was higher than for the remainder of the county and the country, and the population of the Division increased during 1970 by 3,690, natural increase being 1,392. The continually increasing size of the Division, therefore, can be seen to be due to migration into the area rather than to any other factor.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total	1,445	1,327	2,772
Legitimate	1,357	1,246	2,603
Illegitimate	88	81	169
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	17.1
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	-
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	6.0
<u>STILL-BIRTHS:</u>			
Total	13	15	28
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	-	-	10.0
Total live and still-births	1,458	1,342	2,800
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:</u>			
Total	32	24	56
Legitimate	29	22	51
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	20.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	19.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	29.5
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	14.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	11.5
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	21.4
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</u>			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL DEATHS:</u>	707	673	1,380
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	8.5
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	- *
Natural increase of population	-	-	1,392
Overall increase of population	-	-	3,690

SECTION "B" BALDOCK

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children - Section 22 - Baldock

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

Attendance increased by 18 during 1970. Ante natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation exercises but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

Attendance:

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>No of attendances 1970</u>
Baldock	188

Family Planning Clinic

The policy of the County Council in regard to family planning is the utilization of the Family Planning Association as the principal agency in the provision of these services. The Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs. K. Arger, is to be congratulated on carrying out these duties under difficult circumstances and further reference to these problems is made in the preface to this report.

Sessions:

Hitchin, Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road.	Tuesday afternoon (double doctor session) Wednesday evening (double doctor session) Thursday morning (single doctor session)
Letchworth Health Centre Nevels Road	Monday evening (single doctor session)
Stevenage Family Centre	Tuesday afternoon (treble doctor session) Wednesday morning (treble doctor session) Thursday morning (treble doctor session) Friday morning (treble doctor session)

	No. of Doctors Sessions	No. of I.L.D. Sessions	No. of Marital Problems Sessions	No. of New Patients	Total No. of Attendances	No. of Cervical Smears	Positive	Negative
HITCHIN	233	41	-	297	3,272	479	2	471
LEITCHWORTH	95	48	-	247	1,875	294	-	294
STEVENAGE	564	243	3	819	7,745	788	-	788

The majority of patients attending all clinics were in the 20 - 24 years age group

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Centre,  
Pinnocks Lane, Baldock.

Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.  
Thursday 2 - 4 p.m.

Dr. F.E. Woodthorpe  
Health Visitor

<u>Clinic</u>	Children born in <u>1970</u>	Children born in <u>1969</u>	Children born in <u>1965 - 1968</u>	No. of <u>Attendances</u>
Baldock	101	97	152	2,642

Child Health Assessment Unit

Attendances at this unit so far are as follows:-

Children born in	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966 and over
Baldock	-	-	-	2	2

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1970

	Born alive			Stillbirths			Died under 28 days				No. who survived 28 days		
	At home	In Hosp	Total	At home	In hosp.	Total	No. removed to hosp. after birth	At home	In hosp.	Total	Born At Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
District													
Baldock	1	twins 7	8	-	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	6	7



DAY NURSERIES - NORTH HERTS

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>No. ON REGISTER</u>
1. Children of widows or widowers	2
2. Children of unmarried mothers	12
3. Children of deserted wives or husbands	22
4. Children of parents in prison	Nil
5. Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement	Nil
6. Temporary cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement	3
7. Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help	3
8. Children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories, for example, teachers and nurses (local Committee Members' approval required).	1
9. Children living in bad housing conditions	Nil
10. Children of families where there was a risk of break-up of family.	3

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December, 1970 was 46

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

Ante Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual ante-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P.'s surgery or in the home.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - BALDOCK

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	335
Home Conditions Reports for Hospital	46
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	-
Deliveries - Home	30
Deliveries - Hospital	65
Total - Live and Stillbirths	92
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	5

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24 - BALDOCK

Two health visitors were employed during 1970

Child welfare	Visits	2,284
Aged	"	810
Others	"	223
School Inspections	Sessions	51
Maternity and Child Welfare	Sessions	172

## HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

The staff of the home nursing service in Baldock at 31st December 1970 consisted of one part-time district nurse: two full-time district nurse midwives.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1970. It will be seen that they made 8,005 visits to 265 patients; 70 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 7,070 occasions; 88 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No. of cases attended</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Medical	186	5,949
Surgical	53	2,042
Tuberculosis	-	-
Others	26	14
TOTALS	265	8,005

Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	187	7,070
Children included above who were under 5	10	35

## Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics by County District as at 31st December 1970

### Section 26

County District	Born in 1969		Born in 1968	
	Diphth/Tet Two Imms.	Diphth/Tet Primary	Measles	Smallpox
Baldock U.D.	97.6	95.9	53.4	68.5
Hitchin U.D.	81.9	87.1	43.5	55.7
Letchworth U.D.	88.3	90.1	40.7	56.6
Royston U.D.	85.8	91.7	58.6	68.6
Stevenage U.D.	82.1	84.8	41.6	53.5
Hitchin R.D.	82.4	81.0	43.0	51.2
	518.1	530.6	280.8	354.1
Average	86.3	88.4	46.8	58.5

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The vaccination and immunisation rates for the districts are within the national average; those for measles vaccination however are disappointing and this has now been reflected in the incidence of measles in this area for the past two years. Measles is a serious childhood disease and will not become as uncommon as diphtheria until all parents realise that their children must be vaccinated in infancy.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE - SECTION 28

NORTH HERTS

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delegated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and those organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service we should like to express our thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting:

Tuberculosis households - visits	374
B.C.G. Follow-up-Visits	44
Contacts - Visits	242
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	93

New Cases

Immigrants	8
Others	13
Contacts of New Cases	96
Heaf Negative	49
B.C.G. Vaccination	34

VENEREAL DISEASES

Number of New Cases in 1970

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL ALL VENEREAL CONDITIONS</u>
Lister Hospital, Hitchin.	259	112	381 371

All venereal conditions increased by 51 % in 1970.

The return from Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge has been omitted since it refers to the whole of the geographical county of Hertfordshire. These figures are, therefore, deficient by an unknown number in addition to the deficiencies caused by the treatment of patients from this area in London and elsewhere.

30% of the cases were in females.

Comment is contained in the preface of this report.



CERVICAL CYTOLOGY - NORTH HERTS

CLINICS	No.1st Attendances	% Pop.at risk attending	Negative		Positive		Unsatisfactory Specimens		Inflammatory Changes		Trichomonas Vaginalis		Monilia		Suspicious		Cell Irregularities	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
HITCHIN	478	i) 3 ii) 4	478	100	-	-	-	-	109	22.8	26	5.04	5	1.00	1	.2	-	-
LEICHHWORTH	242	i) 3 ii) 3	242	100	-	-	5	2.06	51	21	8	3.3	7	2.8	-	-	-	-
STEVENAGE	602	i) 8 ii) 11	576	95.6	-	-	-	-	110	18.29	31	5.1	6	.99	-	-	-	-
ROYSTON	75	i) 0.53 ii) 2	75	100	-	-	1	0.13	66	88	1	.13	-	-	-	-	-	-

CYTOLOGY CLINIC

WELL WOMAN CLINIC - JANUARY 1970

Hitchin	-	Every Wednesday a.m.
Letchworth	-	1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.
Stevenage	-	Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.
Royston	-	Every third Wednesday in the month a.m.

From a total of 1,397 no positives were discovered.

In 1970 attendances at the Cytology Clinics showed a slight increase at Hitchin but were lower at Stevenage, Letchworth and Royston than in 1969.



## Cervical Cytology (continued):-

(i) Aged 20 and over

(ii) Aged 30 and over

Population at Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient.

Baldock U.D.	(i) 2,080	Royston U.D.	(i) 2,260
	(ii) 1,740		(ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	(i) 9,540	Stevenage U.D.	(i) 16,200
	(ii) 7,900		(ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	(i) 9,480	Hitchin R.D.	(i) 8,560
	(ii) 7,950		(ii) 7,200
TOTAL AT RISK		(i) 48,120	
		(ii) 39,000	

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order or in emergency or an Order signed by two Medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1970.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTIONS 21 - 36

During 1970 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued - the waiting list being 12 men and 71 women. The position will not be eased by Governmental restrictions on new buildings, and the situation has worsened.

### BLIND WELFARE

#### NORTH HERTS

The number of blind persons on the register at 31st December 1970 was 252 and of partially sighted 122.

Patients were visited at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wireless, talking books, holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc. were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1959 - SECTIONS 25 and 29

During 1970, 78 patients were admitted to mental hospitals on Compulsory Orders and 32 were admitted on an informal basis.

The Social Workers dealt with 650 mental health cases during 1970.

TRAINING CENTRES

<u>Junior Training Centre,</u> Bedford Road, Hitchin.	Special Care Unit .. .. 12
	General Unit .. .. 39
	Nursery .. .. 24
	<u>TOTAL 75</u>

<u>Adult Training Centre,</u> Leydon Road, Stevenage.	Trainees on roll 1st Jan. 1970 .. 60
	Trainees on roll 31st Dec. 1970 .. 73

Trainees on roll 1st Jan. 1970.. 60 Trainees on roll 31st Dec. 1970 .. 73

12 males and 14 females joined the Centre during 1970

9 " " 4 " left " " " "

This report has been kindly submitted by Mr. Sindall, Manager of the Adult Training Centre -

Taking the year as a whole, the Centre programme has been successful, both from an industrial and social point of view, which has been shown by the standard of work produced and the results achieved. Whilst some old methods have been continued, new ventures have been embarked upon, particularly in the social training programme, which is constantly under review, to give trainees confidence and a more adult outlook on life.

Two new innovations were introduced during the year. A "Keep Fit" class for the females and Badminton for all those able to participate. The "Keep Fit" classes are very popular and it is hoped that a certain amount of weight will be lost by some young ladies. When dressed in their tunics they look quite an attractive class. Badminton has also proved most popular and there are some trainees who have achieved quite a high standard. A Tournament was held during the year and medals presented to the winning lady and gentleman. It is hoped to introduce a Physical Training class for the males in due course.

A new and more comprehensive social training programme is now being introduced which, it is hoped, will help the trainees to cope more fully with the responsibilities of adult life.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - SECTION 29

Number of Home Helps employed at 31st December 1970 .....	76
" " Good Neighbours " " " " " .....	12
" " Night Sitters " " " " " .....	1

GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

	No. of cases	No. of hours given
1 Maternity (including expectant mothers	48	987
2 Chronic sick		
(a) Aged 65 plus	533 )	50,252
(b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	35 )	
3 Others:	115	7,475
Including (a) Mental Health		
(b) Blind		
(c) Miscellaneous		
Acute cases		
Accidents		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>58,714</b>

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

TABLE 1 - BALDOCK

Inspection School Children 1970

Entrants Nursery Children	60
Secondary Consultative	109
Number of special inspections	29
Number of re-inspections	307

Physical condition of Pupils inspected

Satisfactory	505
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I am happy to record that the divisional education officers and the school heads have shown a ready appreciation of the current difficulties.

TABLE II - BALDOCK

B.C.G. Vaccination - 11 years and absentees from previous sessions

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	216
Number of acceptances	184
Percentage of acceptances	80.5

Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Test:

Number tested	184
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Result of Test

Number positive	5
Number negative	160
Number not ascertained	19
Percentage positive	2.7
Percentage negative	87.0
Number vaccinated	160

Note: The percentage of acceptances is most satisfactory; no adverse reactions to B.C.G. vaccinations were reported during the year.

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician - and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Doctors Roper and Gabriel have played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to them also.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR  
1970.

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SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to Baldoock is provided by the Lee Valley Water Company from deep wells to the south of the town.

The regular sampling of the water has shown it to be consistent both in quality and quantity. 132 bacteriological and 6 chemical samples taken during the year were all reported as conforming to the standards of purity suitable for public supply.

Direct piped supply is provided to all premises in the town, and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvency.

The average fluoride content is less than 0.02 parts per million.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The town is served by a main sewerage system, into which all but 3 premises are connected. Of these, 2 have septic tanks, and the other a cesspool.

A large scheme of replacement of defective and inadequate sewerage was commenced during the year and progressed quite rapidly.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. The weekly collection has been maintained, and the refuse is disposed of by tipping.

CEMETERY

Routine duties in connection with the preparation for interment in 30 grave spaces was carried out, and other work involved in maintaining good order and control.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following details are extracted from those supplied to H.M. Factory Inspectorate in the Annual Report, and show the work carried out during the year.



## REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

	No. of premises registered during year	Total No. of registered premises	No. of Inspections.
Offices .. .. .	2	15	6
Retail Shops .. ..	-	45	14
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering Establishment, cantoens .. .. .	-	9	3
 TOTALS	 2	 70	 23

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises .. 41  
 Total number of reported accidents .. .. . 1

### PETROLEUM ACTS

Number of premises subject to the Acts .. .. 12  
 Number of Licences granted .. .. . 12  
 Visits and inspections .. .. . 36  
 Total gallonage of petroleum spirit stored .. 41,100 gals.  
 Licence fees received .. .. . £53

The Main duties concerned with petroleum consist of ensuring a minimal fire hazard, and the regulations governing petrol service stations have this as their prime concern. Control is exercised over pumps, tanks and buildings, as well as road tankers discharging into storage tanks. Tests are applied to underground storage tanks when necessary to ensure that leakage is not occurring.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA (other than dwelling houses and food premises).

#### Number of inspections

Drainage and Sewerage .. .. . 29  
 Water Supply and Sampling .. .. . 17  
 Nuisances .. .. . 78  
 Game Licences .. .. . 2  
 Pet Animals Act .. .. . 5  
 Hairdressers and Barbers By-laws .. .. 2  
 Consumer Protection Act .. .. . 3  
 Trade Description Act .. .. . 1

### HOUSING

On the 31st December 1970 the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for housing accommodation was 123, being a decrease of 7 over the previous year's total of 130.

During 1970, 39 applications were registered, 21 applicants housed and 25 applications cancelled.

The number of private dwellings provided by new construction during the year was 20. 52 new dwellings were commenced by the Council on the Brewery Site.

## CARAVANS

The total number of caravans in the district at the end of 1970, remained at 96, stationed on the approved sites in Limekiln Lane.

## HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

There are 5 houses in multiple occupation in the town, and no action was required under the regulations.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

The following inspections were carried out during the year:-

1.	Number inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts ..	67
2.	Number found to be unfit for human habitation .. ..	39
3.	Number in which defects were remedied by owners .. ..	34
4.	Number the subject of closing or demolition orders .. ..	Nil
5.	Number of filthy or verminous houses .. ..	Nil

## STANDARD GRANTS

One application for a standard grant was received, and a grant of £185 was approved.

## FOOD HYGIENE

The types of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations are as follows:-

Butchers	5	Greengrocers & Fruiterers	4
Cafes & Snack Bars	7	Bakehouses	2
Bakers & Confectioners	4	Canteens	2
Fishmongers	3	Public Houses	15
Grocers & Provision Merchants	6	Food Warehouses	1

There are 17 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, 5 for the preparation of meat products, and 6 dealers in milk.

There are no slaughterhouses or poultry processing premises in the district.

6 cwt.20 lbs. of unsound food was surrendered for condemnation.

There were no food poisoning cases reported during the year.

Complaints of unsound food being sold to the public are immediately followed by a visit to the premises concerned, and stocks of the suspect commodity are inspected to prevent any further chance of unsound food being sold. This can also be followed by requests to the County Council Weights and Measures Department for formal action to be taken, if the seriousness of the case warrants it.

## SWIMMING POOL

The privately-owned open-air swimming pool has again been much appreciated by school-children from Baldock and the neighbouring area. The water is purified by a system of filtration, chlorination and aeration, which has produced consistently good results when sampled.



### PADDLING POOL

This pool is situated in the Avenue Park. Treatment of the water is carried out by the Department, and involves chlorination and algae prevention.

### RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The following work was carried out during the year for rodent eradication:-

Total number of premises inspected following notification	154
Number infested by rats	110
Number infested by mice	18
Total number of premises inspected for reasons other than notification	6
Number infested by rats	2

### FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Routine inspections were made of 13 of the 27 factories, for the purpose of checking the sanitary accommodation only.

### AIR POLLUTION

There are two industrial oil-fired boilers in the area, the chimneys of which are kept under observation, and from which minor nuisances have been observed on occasion. These nuisances have occurred as the result of mechanical failure and have soon been rectified.

Other minor cases of smoke nuisance have been rectified when informal action has been taken.

### SCRAP METAL DEALERS

There are 3 registered scrap dealers in the town.

### MARKETS

Baldock is a market town, holding a weekly market on the High Street Car Park. There are 30 pitches, occupied by various tradesmen, of which a percentage are subject to the Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966, and receive regular weekly inspections.

### NOISE

Further readings of sound levels were taken in various parts of the town in the vicinity of industrial sites, but no nuisances were found.

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

Some action was necessary during the year, but only of a minor nature.

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### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors was attended by the Public Health Inspector, during which much useful information was obtained, and where modern techniques were seen and studied.

SECTION "F"

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES (CORRECTED) BALDOCK - AGE DISTRIBUTION

DISEASES	TOTAL C/SSES NOTIFIED	COUNT AFTER CORRECTION	UNDER 1 YEAR	ONE YEAR	TWO YEARS	THREE YEARS	FOUR YEARS	5 - 9 YEARS	10 - 14 YEARS	15 - 24 YEARS	25 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 YEARS AND OVER	AGE UNKNOWN
WHOOPING COUGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEL/SLIES	10	-	-	1	-	1	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	-	-	1	-	1	1	6	1	1	-	-	-	-



BALDOCK U.D.C. - TUBERCULOSIS

Number on Register at 31st December 1970

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	24	14	38
Non-Pulmonary	4	1	5
	<u>28</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

Number Removed from Register during 1970

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Deaths	-	-	-	-
Others (cured, re-diagnosed transfers of area, etc.)	1	2		3
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
				3

Additions to Register during 1970:

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
New Notifications	-	1	-	-
Others (cases restored to Register, transfers, etc.).	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
				1

